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Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Report pursuant to the provisions of the final document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in particular to articles VI and VII of the Treaty

Submitted by Malaysia

Malaysia remains committed to the goal of attaining general and complete disarmament in the world, in particular, nuclear disarmament. The 2005 Review Conference provides the opportunity for the States parties as well as the rest of the international community to take stock of the implementation of the Treaty in support of the ultimate objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. As States Members of the United Nations, States parties to the Treaty in particular have the moral responsibility to implement the resolve of their leaders at the Millennium Summit to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.

Malaysia became a signatory State of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1968 and ratified the Treaty in 1970. It views the Treaty as a vitally important universal regime to stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons, which, in their tens of thousands, continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security and to the survival of humanity on this planet. The 11 September terrorist attacks on the United States amplified the fragility of international peace and security and exposed the vulnerability of States to the dangers of nuclear terrorism.

Malaysia continued to work actively with other Members of the United Nations in the area of nuclear disarmament. As a concrete effort, Malaysia introduced for the sixth consecutive year a resolution on the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the legality of the use and threat of nuclear weapons at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, which was supported by the overwhelming majority of Member States. The resolution, inter alia, continues to underscore the unanimous opinion of the Court that there exists an obligation to

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pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. The resolution was adopted by a recorded vote by the General Assembly on 29 November 2001 as resolution 56/24 S. Two new elements were introduced in preambular paragraphs 6 and 10 as follows:

Preambular paragraph 6:

"*Welcoming* the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, **adopted at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**"

It is the view of Malaysia that the new preambular paragraph 6, which includes the new element (in bold), underscores the importance of the positive commitment of the nuclear-weapon States made at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, which hopefully would provide the necessary impetus for all States, especially nuclear-weapon States, to pursue the ultimate objective of nuclear disarmament.

Preambular paragraph 10:

"*Stressing* the importance of strengthening all existing nuclear-related disarmament, arms control and reduction measures"

Malaysia decided to incorporate this new paragraph to draw attention to, and stress the need to address, the weakening of existing nuclear disarmament treaties and the virtually complete standstill in negotiations on nuclear disarmament on both the bilateral and multilateral tracks.

The draft resolution was sponsored by 66 Member States and was adopted by 111 votes in favour, 29 against, with 21 abstentions, thereby showing the continued overwhelming support of the international community for it.

At the regional level, Malaysia continued to work actively with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to strengthen the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ). It is our hope that SEANWFZ would create conditions conducive to peace and stability and to promoting regional confidence-building. The establishment of SEANWFZ is also a reflection of the genuine commitment of the States of South-East Asia towards achieving their common disarmament goal. Malaysia had ratified the Bangkok Treaty on 11 October 1996 and is working closely with its ASEAN neighbours in our common pursuit to encourage nuclear-weapon States to accede to the SEANWFZ Protocol at an early date. Malaysia also strongly supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in other regions of the world, particularly in volatile regions, such as the Middle East and South Asia.

Malaysia is fundamentally opposed to nuclear tests undertaken by any country and strongly supports the overwhelming international opinion against such tests. Malaysia signed the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty on 23 July 1998 and is taking steps to ratify it. We believe, however, that the onus lies principally with the remaining 44 countries, stipulated in annex 2 to the Treaty, and would strongly urge them to take immediate steps to sign/accede/ratify the Treaty. Malaysia is also cooperating with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-

Ban Treaty to host a verification facility (radionuclide monitoring station) in Malaysia in support of the international monitoring system of the Treaty.

Malaysia reiterates its commitment to pursue its long-term goal towards the total elimination of all nuclear weapons. It underscores the importance of the multilateral approach towards disarmament and, in that context, strongly believes that the search for genuine measures for disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular in the area of nuclear disarmament, remains a high priority on the international agenda. In this regard, it is necessary for all States parties, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to show their continued commitment to fulfil the implementation of agreements arrived at in 1995 as well as at the 2000 Review Conference.